



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON CHILD PROTECTION
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 381B
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012**

Friday, October 18, 2013

3:30 PM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (13-4981)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)
 [VIDEO - PART 1](#)
 [VIDEO - PART 2](#)

Present: Chair David Sanders, Vice Chair Leslie Gilbert-Lurie, Vice Chair Hon. Dickran M. Tevrizian (ret.), Commissioner Gabriella Holt, Commissioner Richard Martinez, Commissioner Andrea L. Rich, Commissioner Dan Scott and Commissioner Janet Teague. Commissioner Marilyn L. Flynn joined the meeting via teleconference after roll call.

Absent: Commissioner Hon. Terry B. Friedman (ret.)

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Call to Order. (13-4395)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sanders at 3:26 p.m.

2. Approval of the September 23, 2013 regular meeting minutes. (13-4836)

On motion of Chair Sanders, seconded by Vice Chair Gilbert-Lurie, and unanimously carried, this item was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: 9 - Chair David Sanders, Vice Chair Leslie Gilbert-Lurie, Vice Chair Hon. Dickran M. Tevrizian (ret.), Commissioner Gabriella Holt, Commissioner Marilyn L. Flynn, Commissioner Richard Martinez, Commissioner Andrea L. Rich, Commissioner Dan Scott and Commissioner Janet Teague

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Hon. Terry B. Friedman (ret.)

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

3. Approval of the October 3, 2013 special meeting minutes. (13-4837)

On motion of Chair Sanders, seconded by Vice Chair Gilbert-Lurie, and unanimously carried, this item was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: 9 - Chair David Sanders, Vice Chair Leslie Gilbert-Lurie, Vice Chair Hon. Dickran M. Tevrizian (ret.), Commissioner Gabriella Holt, Commissioner Marilyn L. Flynn, Commissioner Richard Martinez, Commissioner Andrea L. Rich, Commissioner Dan Scott and Commissioner Janet Teague

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Hon. Terry B. Friedman (ret.)

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. PRESENTATIONS

4. Presentation by:
Los Angeles County Dependency Court - Judge Michael Nash
Children's Law Center - Leslie Starr Heimov
Alliance for Children's Rights - Laura Streimer, Esq.
Alliance for Children's Rights - Angie Schwartz, Esq.
Children's Rights Project - Martha Matthews
Los Angeles County Domestic Violence Council - Olivia G. Rodriguez (13-4839)

Leslie Starr Heimov, Executive Director, Children's Law Center of California (CLC), provided an overview of their role in representing children in dependency court and a summary of current projects and services offered. Ms. Heimov responded to questions submitted by the Commission and listed impediments that prevent CLC from doing their job as attorneys in serving the children of Los Angeles County.

Judge Michael Nash, Los Angeles County Dependency Court, provided an overview on the court system's role in overseeing child welfare cases. Judge Nash shared his experiences with the court system and responded to questions posed by the Commission.

Laura Streimer, Legal Director and Angie Schwartz, Policy Director of the Alliance for Children's Rights, provided an overview of their services and expressed concern regarding the difference in benefits and services provided for children placed with non-relative caregivers in contrast to children in the custody of relative caregivers. Ms. Streimer and Ms. Schwartz responded to questions posed by the Commission.

Martha Matthews, Director of the Children's Rights Project, Public Counsel Law Center, provided an overview of the impact of funding in California and the combined impact of Title IV-E Waiver and Realignment at the State level. Ms. Matthews responded to questions submitted by the Commission and provided recommendations on how to improve the child welfare system.

Olivia G. Rodriguez, Executive Director, Los Angeles County Domestic Violence Council, presented an overview of their services and responded to questions posed by the Commission. At the request of the Commission, Ms. Rodriguez will provide the "Guidelines to Effective Response on Domestic Abuse" (GERDA) to Commission.

Members of the public, Arnold Sachs, Don Saxton, Patrick O'Rourke, Teresija Sigmund, Jordan Sigmund, Rodica Marinescu, Bill Gay, Lori Martin and Genie Briskin addressed the Commission.

III. MISCELLANEOUS

5. Items not on the posted agenda, to be presented and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the Commission, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take immediate action came to the attention of the Commission subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (13-4832)

No matters were presented.

6. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. (13-4833)

Members of the public, Donnamarie Fontaine, Lori Martin, Arnold Sachs, Denise Paz, Teresija Sigmund, Patrick O'Rourke, Rodica Marinescu, addressed the Commission.

7. Adjournment. (13-4460)

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.